

**Remarks:**

Applicants appreciatively acknowledge the Examiner's confirmation of receipt of Applicants' claim for priority and certified priority document under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

Reconsideration of the application, as amended herein, is respectfully requested.

Claims 22 - 49 are presently pending in the application.

Claims 22 and 44 have been amended.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge that in item 5 of the above-identified Office Action, claims 32, 34 - 38 and 40 - 43 have been indicated as being allowable if rewritten to include all the limitations of the claims from which those claims depend. In view of the following, it is believed that such amendments are unnecessary at this time.

In item 1 of the Office Action, claim 49 was rejected as allegedly being indefinite under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. More specifically, it was alleged in the Office Action that claim 49 seems to be incomplete. However, the remainder of claim 49 appeared on the top of page 24 of the Preliminary Amendment filed October 31, 2001. The full claim 49 is reprinted herein on page 20 of the instant amendment.

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As such, it is accordingly believed that the claims meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

In item 3 of the Office Action, claims 22 - 31, 39, and 44 - 49 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over U. S. Patent No. 5,987,490 to Alidina ("ALIDINA") in view of U. S. Patent No. 6,029,268 to Kong ("KONG"). In item 4 of the Office Action, claim 33 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over ALIDINA and KONG in view of U. S. Patent No. 5,446,746 to Park ("PARK").

Applicants respectfully traverse the above rejections.

More particularly, Applicants' claim 22 has been amended to recite, among other limitations:

a selection unit switching the apparatus between a first operating mode and a second operating mode, wherein the first operating mode is in a different field of operation than the second operating mode; [emphasis added by Applicants]

Similarly, claim 44 has been amended to recite, among other limitations:

selecting one of a first operating mode and a second operating mode of an apparatus to execute the Viterbi algorithm, wherein the first operating mode is in a different field of operation than the second operation mode; [emphasis added by Applicants]

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This is supported in the instant application, for example, on page 4, lines 13 - 16, which states:

The invention for the first time makes it possible to use a Viterbi algorithm for different fields of operation, for example for channel decoding of physical signals or for equalization of physical signals. [emphasis added by Applicants]

See also, page 11, line 18 - 22, which states:

The first operating mode is preferably a mode in which the decoding of received, noisy physical signals is carried out using the Viterbi algorithm. The second operating mode may be a mode in which received, noisy physical signals are equalized using the Viterbi algorithm. [emphasis added by Applicants]

The cited references neither teach, nor suggest, the above limitations of the invention, among others.

More particularly, the ALINDINA reference discloses a processor able to execute two Viterbi ACS (Add-Compare-Select) operations. Hence, ALINDINA discloses a processor able to perform two identical Viterbi Operations, namely ACS Operations. As such, among other limitations of Applicants claims, ALINDINA neither teaches, nor suggests, a selection unit switching the apparatus between a first operating mode and a second operating mode, wherein the first operating mode is in a different field of operation than the second operating mode.

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The KONG reference was cited in connection with ALINDINA as allegedly disclosing final state registers connected to evaluation units. KONG, like ALINDINA, neither teaches, nor suggests, among other limitations of Applicants' claims, a selection unit switching the apparatus between a first operating mode and a second operating mode, wherein the first operating mode is in a different field of operation than the second operating mode.

The PARK reference, cited against dependent claim 33 in the Office Action in combination with the ALINDINA and KONG references, does nothing to cure the above-described deficiencies of ALINDINA and KONG.

It is accordingly believed that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, teach or suggest the features of claims 22 and 44. Claims 22 and 44 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art. The dependent claims are believed to be patentable as well because they all are ultimately dependent on claims 22 or 44.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 22 - 49 are solicited.

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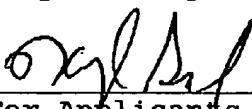
In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate receiving a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

Additionally, please consider the present as a petition for a three (3) month extension of time, and please provide a three (3) month extension of time, to and including, March 13, 2006 to respond to the present Office Action.

The extension fee for response within a period of three (3) months pursuant to Section 1.136(a) in the amount of \$1,020.00 in accordance with Section 1.17 is enclosed herewith.

Please provide any additional extensions of time that may be necessary and charge any other fees that might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner, Greenberg, Stemmer, L.L.P., P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,



For Applicants  
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